



MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

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Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-04-17

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. COVID 19 Information
2. Emergency Certification Closure Form for Non-community PWS
3. Deadline Extension for Annual Statistical Report (ASR)
4. Drinking Water Awards Day Update
5. Survey of Certified PWS Operators Available to Assist other Systems
6. Guidance for Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers
7. PFAS Technical and Regulatory Guidance Document
8. EPA Announces Grant Funding to Support Healthy School Environments
9. Training

COVID 19 Information

Massachusetts COVID-19 Information

For all information go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

On 3/24/20 Governor Baker announced the launch of a new messaging tool called “AlertsMA”. This tool allows residents to subscribe to real-time notifications by texting the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777**. After signing up, you will receive short messages and links to information on your cell phone or other mobile device.

MassDEP Public Water Supply Information

MassDEP is coordinating with the water supply industries, agencies, and organizations to provide information about the impacts of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Water Suppliers Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Wastewater Treatment System Operators Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Questions from drinking water operators answered by MassDEP [Water Supplier FAQs](#)
- Questions from wastewater operators answered by MassDEP: [Wastewater Operator FAQs](#)
- Three guidance documents posted
 - [Bacteria sampling at outside taps/spigots/hose bibs](#) (PDF 97 KB)
 - [Bacteria sampling at hydrants using hydrant sampler](#) (PDF 87 KB)
 - [Mitigating lead and copper levels in facilities after school closure due to COVID-19](#) (PDF 115 KB)
- Emergency Certification for Public Water System Temporary Closure (Non-Operational Status) For Non-Community (TNC/NTNC) public water suppliers ([Word 40KB](#)) ([PDF 149 KB](#))
- Other Useful link
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html> CDC Guidance for Building of Water Systems:

MassDEP COVID19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is holding weekly Zoom conference calls to all operators and interested parties. Here is a link to MassDEP's webpage, where recordings of Commissioner Suuberg's calls with the operators as well as FAQs for both water supply and wastewater are published: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-information-for-drinking-water-and-wastewater-operators>. MassDEP will continue to populate this webpage with other relevant information related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The next call with Commissioner Suuberg is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, at 2 PM. Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. You may also email questions to jpederson@masswaterworks.org by noon on Tuesday.

Topic: MassDEP call with Public Water Systems re: COVID-19

Time: Apr 21, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

By Phone: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

With Computer Audio: <https://zoom.us/j/716180953> (please turn your video off!)

Meeting ID: **550 814 507**

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,550814507# US (New York)

+13126266799,,550814507# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: **550 814 507**

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

DPH Guidance For Non-Healthcare Essential Workers

See Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidance at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/non-healthcare-essential-service-worker-covid-19-exposure-guidance/download>. This guidance for non-healthcare essential workers states that even if a non-healthcare essential worker has been in contact with a COVID + individual, they may continue to work as long as they are not showing symptoms and other required precautions are taken. This guidance is in alignment with the CDC guidance from 4/8/2020, which can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html>

Beware of Fraudulent Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Offers

Due to the high demand for PPE, Critical Infrastructure (CI) sectors have experienced a number of fraudulent offers promising PPE they do not have access to in order to capitalize on the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of these fraudsters, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) issued an industry alert to warn government and health care industry buyers of rapidly emerging fraud trends. You can access the alert, along with some recommendations to protect yourselves, here: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-warns-of-advance-fee-and-bec-schemes-related-to-procurement-of-ppe-and-other-supplies-during-covid-19-pandemic>

MassDEP highly recommends all staff exercise due diligence with emailed or other types of PPE offers, and extreme caution when dealing with vendors with whom they've never heard of and/or have never worked with previously. Please continue to work with your local Emergency Management Director (EMD) for PPE needs. If you do not know your local EMD, you can find them here: <https://www.mass.gov/find-your-local-emergency-management-director-emd>

Emergency Certification Form for Temporary System Closure due to Covid-19 or other declared State of Emergency- For non-community PWSs

All Non-community water systems that closed due to COVID-19 must notify the appropriate MassDEP regional office. You may use the Emergency Certification of PWS Temporary Closure form to document your date(s) of closure. The form is located at

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-covid-19-resources-for-water-suppliers-and-wastewater-operators> and <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#emergency-response-forms>

If you have already provided written documentation to your MassDEP regional office on the closing of your non-community system as a result of COVID-19 declared State of Emergency, it is not necessary to complete and submit this form.

During this emergency, while MassDEP offices are closed and staff is working remotely you should submit all documents electronically to program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject: [Region] PWS Closure.

Deadline Extension for Annual Statistical Report (ASR)

The deadline to submit the Annual Statistical Report has been extended to July 1, 2020. MassDEP encourages all public water systems to file as soon as possible. All systems active during 2019 are required to file an ASR.

If you have not started the ASR:

- If you do not have an eDEP account you will need to create one by visiting <https://edep.dep.mass.gov/edep/> using any modern browser (Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Google Chrome, etc.) and clicking on the button labeled “New User”.
 - After creating an eDEP account follow the instructions at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/instructions-for-electronic-annual-statistical-reporting-easr/> beginning on page 4 (section 2.3)
- If you already have an eDEP account you can start by logging in to your eDEP account using your existing username and password at <https://edep.dep.mass.gov>
- After logging in to your account verify your email by going to *My Profile* → *Update My Information*. Without a current and accurate email address you will not receive an official receipt after submitting your eASR.
- You must open a new ASR each year. From your eDEP homepage go to *Forms* → *Drinking Water* → *2019 Public Water System Annual Statistical Report*.
- **The Annual Statistical Report is due on Wednesday, July 1st 2020.**

- Instructions for filling out the ASR are located at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drinking-water-permits-forms-and-templates#statistical-reporting-forms>.

For questions related to filling out the Annual Statistical Report please contact:

- Tio Yano at tio.yano@mass.gov
- Andrew Durham at andrew.durham@mass.gov

For questions related to Water Management Act forms please contact:

- Jen D'Urso at jen.durso@mass.gov
- Julie Butler at julie.butler@mass.gov

For questions related to eDEP, such as resetting your password or being unable to log in to your account, please contact the EEA Help Desk by email at eea.servicedesk@mass.gov.

Drinking Water Awards Day

Update: The Annual Public Water System Awards Ceremony that was planned for May 5th **will not take place due to COVID-19**. More information will follow on how we will recognize the public water systems who achieved excellent compliance in 2019.

MassDEP Survey of Certified PWS Operators Available to Assist other Systems

COVID-19 has strained many essential services across the Commonwealth including public drinking water operations. In response, MassDEP initiated a short survey asking certified drinking water operators if they may be able to assist other systems in need.

MassDEP is publishing a list based on the survey results for drinking water operators at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-covid-19-resources-for-water-suppliers-and-wastewater-operators#water-supplier-resources->. The list includes grade level, MassDEP region(s) where the operators are available to work, email addresses and phone numbers. Systems in need of help are asked to contact the self-identified certified operators directly by phone or email. Operators who indicate their availability are not under obligation to help. The lists are only for the purpose of providing names of operators that short-staffed systems can reach out to.

If you are a certified operator who may be able to help and haven't yet completed the survey, please complete it at your earliest convenience. The brief 12-question survey is here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5VTP5SS> and takes only 10-20 minutes to complete. MassDEP will periodically update the list.

Please note: The certification and contact information on the list was supplied by the operators via Survey Monkey and has not been verified by MassDEP. Systems using this information should check with the Board of Certification <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/check-a-professional-license> to confirm license status. Furthermore, operators' current employers may need to be consulted to determine if there may be a staffing conflict or social distancing concern prohibiting a particular operator from assisting other systems.

Please note: This information is for public drinking water systems only. Wastewater systems may contact Mr. John Murphy at john.j.murphy@mass.gov for any information on wastewater operators.

Guidance for Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published interim guidance for COVID-19 safety practices for critical infrastructure workers. Full details are available on the CDC website linked below.

The CDC has also published Guidance for Building Water Systems to help minimize the risk of *Legionnaire's* disease and other diseases associated with water given that water has likely become stagnant in many buildings, such as those that have been vacated by businesses while social distancing measures are in place. The eight step process and specific information for different types of buildings may be found on the CDC website linked below.

[CDC - Building Water System Guidance](#)

[Critical Workers COVID-19 Guidance](#)

PFAS Technical and Regulatory Guidance Document

The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council's (ITRC) online document includes the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Technical and Regulatory Guidance Document, [PFAS Fact Sheets and Explainer Videos](#), training module videos and external tables of data and information prepared by the ITRC PFAS Team. Internal links in the online document will help the reader locate interrelated topics, refer back to key concepts, and locate references, while external links provide connection to the training module videos on key topics. Finally, the web-based nature of this document lends itself to updating of key information in this rapidly evolving subject. It is the intention of ITRC to periodically update the document as significant new information and regulatory approaches for PFAS develop. The guidance document can be downloaded as a PDF.

<https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/>

EPA Announces Grant Funding to Support Healthy School Environments

WASHINGTON (April 15, 2020) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking grant applications through the Children's Healthy Learning Environments Grant Initiative from states, tribes, universities, local governments, non-profits, and other groups to support children's environmental health in school and childcare settings. These grants advance children's environmental health by providing education, training, tools, and capacity building.

EPA anticipates awarding two grants of approximately \$145,000 each for up to a two-year funding period. Grant applications should reflect multi-media and holistic approaches for reducing environmental exposures in schools and childcare settings through capacity building, trainings, and technical assistance. Proposals should also demonstrate a broad reach and collaborative problem-solving with appropriate partners.

In addition, EPA is working to customize comprehensive environmental health in schools materials for middle-school teachers, students, and parents. Through EPA's contract with Scholastic, EPA will reach more than 1.5 million middle school students and 50,000 teachers with a wide range of on-line tools.

Applications are due by **June 1, 2020**. Additional information is available on www.grants.gov, under Funding Opportunity Announcement EPA-OA-OCHP-20-01.

For more information, visit the Office of Children's Health Protection

website: <https://www.epa.gov/children/childrens-healthy-learning-environments-grant-initiative-rfa-june-2020>.


Training

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

or click here:  **YouTube**

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water

systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.
